Action Plan to Develop the Tourism Industry In Terrorist-prone Areas

*426. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action-plan to develop the tourism industry in terrorist-prone areas like Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern Region to provide employment opportunities to the youth;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for this plan for 1997-98; and

(c) the number of domestic/foreign tourists likely to visit these States during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the specific problems in different regions, two task forces in the Deptt. of Tourism have been set up, one for the Himalayan/ North East region and " the other for the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The Task Force on Jammu and Kashmir will study the issues relating to revival of tourism in J&K, specially Kashmir Valley. As for the North Eastern States, their terms of reference are to draw up specific projects and circuits for development of tourism in an integrated manner. The draft report of the Task Force for North-East has been prepared.

The Deptt. of Tourism, Govt, of India, in consultation with the State Govts, priorities projects every year for central financial assistance based on their merits, inter-se priority & availability of funds. Discussions on prioritisation of schemes for 1997-98 will start soon.

The State Governments concerned have not made any projections of tourist traffic for 1997-98. However, the international tourist traffic to the country is likely to register a growth of 8% and the overall domestic tourist traffic is expected to register a growth of 9.5% during 1997-98.

During 1995 estimated foreign/ domestic tourists to Jammu & Kashmir and North East were:

	Foreign	Domesti
J&K	20,289	40,98,043
NE	2,097	3,42,535

Deficiencies in the Cold-chain Affecting Immunisation Programme

*427. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the deficiencies in the cold-chain, serveral batches of vaccines are ineffective and this has seriously affected the Universal Immunisation Programme;

(b) if so, what steps arc taken to control this; and

(c) in what way the quality of the cold-chain is proposed to be improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) the performance of cold-chain is of acceptable level and has been improving. Vaccines handled through the cold-chain are tested before supply to States and at PHC level. Vaccines not found up to the standards arc not used.

(c) Cold Chain is constantly under improvement through replacement of machines, supply of spare parts and through training of operating persons.